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ABSTRACT

Focusing on issues that define the multicultural society and intended to help students become alert readers, more purposeful and effective writers, and thinking members of the larger community, this book is built around selections by committed writers who demonstrate the power of the written word to record, interpret, and change today's social and cultural reality. Using a thematic approach, the book explores the promise of a multicultural America; a major theme is diversity and community--the challenge of honoring diversity while searching for the common center. The book also focuses on student development of critical thinking to re-examine familiar ideas and to take a serious look at issues. Chapter themes in the book center around these issues: (1) exploring the diverse settings of American lives; (2) reassessing the immigrant experience; (3) rereading the contested history of the United States; (4) hearing the unheard voices; (5) relating gender and race to the search for identity; (6) searching for role models; (7) probing how language shapes reality; (8) thinking about living at risk in a divided world; (9) watching the media mold social and cultural attitudes; (10) seeking alternative cultural perspectives on the environment; and (11) confronting Utopian and dystopian visions of the future. A writing workshop follows each chapter in the book, with guidelines and activities in each workshop focused on a major writing or thinking strategy. The essays in each chapter are also followed by a short poem and a short story or a one-act play. (NKA)

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